

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
February 6, 2025

Meeting Location:

Balboa Park Club Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road West\
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing Address:

Balboa Park Administration Building
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Allison Soares
Howard Blackson
Chris Eddy
Dang Nguyen
Michael Robinson
Tim Shields
Kathy Vandenheuvel

Members Absent

Makeda Cheatom

Staff Present

Jon Richards
Tyler Canales
Anthony Harrington

CALL TO ORDER

Allison Soares called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES January 9, 2025

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Shields/ Ms. Vandenheuvel

A motion was made by Mr. Shields and seconded by Ms. Vandenheuvel to approve the January 9, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).

NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Web Form:

None

In-Person:

Daniele Laman – Reported that more cameras will be added to the park in high trouble areas. There has been vandalism at the World Beat Center. The Zoo gave a presentation on site protection and situational awareness. Stated all the upcoming lawn programs for the International Cottages.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

None

STAFF REPORT

SDPD - None

Emily Bonner, Council District 3 – None

Michael Bravo, 78th District – None

Jon Richards, Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation – AEA will be attending the March meeting and will have the final report for the prioritization framework. Events that are under 100 people are not on the 6-month event calendar and it is a rolling calendar. There is an internal issue that will be fixed on including other permittable spaces in the park. Lunar New Year will be February 15-16. Have had some lighting issues within the Central Mesa. Temporary lights towers had been put out to help maintain safety but have been removed.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Forever Balboa Park – Jackie Higgins – First tree planting of the year took place on the West Mesa. Girl Scouts help plant 10 trees. Recognized Jordan White at the Visitor Center for winning Affiliate of the Year. RFP for Phase 2 will go out in next 2 weeks. Hope to have a vendor under contract soon. Park cleanups will be on 2/8 and 2/28. 3rd Annual Sparks Awards will be in May. Trees For Health volunteer group is now under Forever Balboa Park. Hope to have an interactive map online for the area in the next couple of months.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership – Peter Comiskey – ROE Permit has been obtained to install sensors in the parking lots in the park. Will start with Alcazar Parking Lot. Will be able to obtain real time data. This data could prove to be invaluable information.

Committee of 100 – Ross Porter – Introduced Kevin Carpenter as the new president of the Committee of 100. Congratulated Jordan White on his award. Anticipates construction fencing for the exterior work at Municipal Gym to go up this month and there will be no impact to programing in the gym. Supports San Diego Museum of Art's new project.

Save Starlight – Steve Stopper – Hoping for progress on the RFP and to hear something soon. Intrusions continue to be an ongoing issue. Looking to have an event for supporters.

Village Arts & Education Foundation – Frank Casciani – Completed 1 year of SUP status. Moving forward with classes and camps. Looking to bring in a Director of Education. New artist jurying completed last month.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

None

CONSENT ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item 1. Approval of Studio Artists in Spanish Village.

Public Comment:

None.

Committee Comment:

Kathy Vandenheuevel – Inquired if all the artists presented were new artists.

Frank Casciani (Responded) – Yes and they will be able be on the property.

Howard Blackson – Asked the artists in attendance to introduce themselves and be recognized.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Blackson / Ms. Vandenheuevel

A motion was made by Mr. Blackson and seconded by Ms. Vandenheuevel to approve the studio artists in Spanish Village. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 2. Introduction to the Commission on Police Practices

Public Comment:

None.

Committee Comment:

Chris Eddy – Asked for clarification on the incarceration disqualification.

Yasmeen Obeid (Responded) – If applicant is currently incarcerated, they could not be a part of the Commission.

Kathy Vandenheuevel – Inquired if the Commission members attend police academy trainings.

Yasmeen Obeid (Responded) – Yes. The members do attend them.

Chris Eddy – Inquired if members are giving input on police trainings.

Yasmeen Obeid (Responded) – Yes, but their input comes from a large combination of different things.

WORKSHOP ITEM

Item 3. Balboa Park Plan Update

Public Comment:

None

Committee Comment:

None

ADJOURNMENT – 4:56 pm

Notice of Next Balboa Park Meeting:

March 6, 2025
4:00 P.M.
In-Person

Respectfully submitted,

Tyler Canales
District Manager